
From: Spence Guerin <[Ex. 6 Personal Privacy \(PP\)](#)>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 9:34 AM
To: 404Assumption-FL
Subject: Florida Request to Assume Section 404 Program Docket EPA-OW-2018-0640

TO:
Mr. Kelly Laycock
Oceans, Wetlands and Stream Protection Branch USEPA Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303

Email: 404Assumption-FL@EPA.gov

**RE: Florida Request to Assume Section 404 Program
Docket EPA-OW-2018-0640**

Dear Mr. Laycock:

As a keenly interested Florida resident, I ask that you DENY the State of Florida's request to assume responsibilities for Section 404 Program and issuing of any permits having to do with wetlands protection, dredge or fill and/or development. It would be hard to imagine a more foolish option for managing the permit process for any wetlands resources in the environmentally-stressed state of Florida. Better to leave that responsibility with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Real estate development pressures are always increasing in Florida, even during the current economic slowdown. There is not any waterway in this state that is not polluted — even spring water is already polluted. Natural wetlands — which play a role in DEpollution of waters -- are disappearing. And most attempts to artificially create wetlands end in failure. Unfortunately, historically Florida has a way of enabling — permitting — MORE pollution, MORE dredge and fill of wetlands to create more attractive waterfront property, not less.

Who will speak for protecting or properly managing or determining what happens to our remaining wetlands? If we value wetlands as an important part of our natural ecosystem — as we do (or should) — only a fool or a scheming land developer would suggest that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection should be in charge of permitting what happens to our remaining wetlands.

P.S. I note that there is a November 2, 2020 deadline for public comments. During this chaotic, confused time of Covid-19 virus scrambling of everything we do, it would seem MOST appropriate to extend that deadline to enable the public to better learn about this issue and be able to comment.

DENY: Florida's request to take on Section 404 Program permitting of applications for wetlands dredge and fill.

EXTEND: public comment period.

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